

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please insert the substitute sheets of drawings, figures 1-15, for the drawings as originally filed.

REMARKS

The above amendment has been made to eliminate multiple dependency of claims 5, 22, 24 - 27 and 30-31. In addition, the amendment incorporates the information on related applications.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 3 [or 4] wherein the resistant starch is selected from high amylose starches and modified forms thereof.

22. (Amended) The improved probiotic composition according to claim 20 [or 21] wherein the high amylose starch includes maize starch having an amylose content of 50% w/w or more.

24. (Amended) The improved probiotic composition according to claim 20 [or 21] wherein the high amylose starch includes rice or wheat starch having an amylose content of 27% w/w or more.

25. (Amended) The improved probiotic composition according to claim 20 [or 21] wherein the high amylose starch includes a particular granular size ranges of starches having an amylose content of 50% or more with enhanced resistant starch content.

26. (Amended) The improved probiotic composition according to claim 20 [or 21] wherein the high amylose starch is derived from plants selected from the group consisting of maize, barley, wheat, rice, legumes, bananas, potatoes, or modified forms thereof.

27. (Amended) The improved probiotic composition according to [any one of claims 20 to 26] claim 20 wherein the resistant starch is modified chemically, enzymatically, and/or physically.

30. (Amended) The improved probiotic composition according to [any one of claims 20 to 26] claim 20 wherein the modified resistant starch is selected from the group consisting of

hydroxypropylated starch, acetylated starch, octenyl succinated starch, carboxymethylated starch, and succinated starch.

31. (Amended) An improved method of providing probiotic microorganisms to the gastrointestinal tract of an animal, the improved method comprising administering to the animal the improved probiotic composition according to [any one of claims 20 to 30] claim 20.

WDC99 557662-1.050179.0101